

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 151740Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5735

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14987

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, AV, SC, RQ

SUBJECT: DOG ISLAND

REF: STATE 217342

1. FCO WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC OFFICE CALLED EMBASSY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 14 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER OCTOBER 31 LETTER FROM PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE VICTOR PONS TO ANGUILLA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN RONALD WEBSTER WHICH, IN FCO JUDGMENT, GOES FAR BEYOND POSITION AGREED TO AT SEPTEMBER 27 LONDON MEETING, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED BY PONS (REFTEL). AT NOVEMBER 15 MORNING MEETING, FCO OFFICIALS PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH COPY OF LETTER (POUCHED TO ARA/CAR), REITERATED FCO'S CONCERN AND ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT URGE PONS TO ADVISE WEBSTER THAT "TECHNICAL REASONS" PRECLUDE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DOG ISLAND QUESTION. FCO ALSO REPORTED THAT JAMES A. GUMBS, WHO APPARENTLY INSTIGATED PONS LETTER, HAS PHONED FCO UNDER-SECRETARY WATSON TWICE IN RECENT DAYS REGARDING THIS SUBJECT.

2. PONS/WEBSTER LETTER STATES THAT GPR IS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING ALTERNATE NAVAL GUNNERY SITE AND WOULD BE WILLING, INTER ALIA, TO CONSIDER PROVISION OF WATER AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES ON ANGUILLA AS PART OF NEGOTIATED
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PACKAGE FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND. HOWEVER, GPR IS WILLING

TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS "ONLY IF THE USE OF DOG ISLAND FOR THE ABOVE STATED PURPOSES HAS THE CONCURRENCE OF ALL THE PARTIES IN INTEREST, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENTS OF ANGUILLA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE U.S." SHOULD DEFINITE ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD BE FORTHCOMING, GPR WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT SUBSTANCE OF LETTER IS CONSISTENT WITH PONS POSITION OUTLINED IN REFTTEL, WHICH WAS PASSED TO FCO, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TONE OF LETTER MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE ANGUILLAN HOPES AND INCREASE PRESSURE ON HMG. EMBOFF ASKED FCO OFFICIALS IF THEY HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW OMELETTE MIGHT BE RETURNED TO EGG. FCO, WHICH IS AWARE OF PONS' UNWILLINGNESS TO USE "TECHNICAL REASONS" RATIONALE, STILL BELIEVES THIS ARGUMENT SHOULD BE UTILIZED. FAILING THAT, FCO WOULD LIKE USG TO QUASH GPR INITIATIVE ON TECHNICAL, BUDGETARY OR OTHER GROUNDS.

4. WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC OFFICE IS CLEARLY DISTURBED BY PONS LETTER WHICH THEY BELIEVE COULD PREJUDICE RESOLUTION OF ST. KITTS/ANGUILLA ISSUE. THEY ALSO IMPLIED THAT THEY SUSPECT USG MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY CLEAN AS REGARDS PONS' ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY ALSO UNDERSTANDS UNDER SECRETARY WATSON MAY RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT DURING HIS VISIT OF NEXT WEEK.

5. FURTHER GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

SPIERS

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